

Remarks

Claims 1-16, 19, and 22-25 are currently pending in the application. Applicant acknowledges with thanks the Examiner's determination of the allowability of claims 8-15. By this amendment, claims 6-7, 16, 19, and 22-24 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended to include elements of claim 8 that we believe the Examiner has indicated as allowable subject matter. Reconsideration and reexamination is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-7, 16, 19, and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson (U.S. Patent No. 4,985,106) in view of Herreman et al. ("Herreman," U.S. Patent No. 6,512,831).

Claims 6-7, 16, 19, and 22-24 have been cancelled without prejudice, thus rendering the rejection moot. Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-7, 16, 19, and 22-24.

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended to define the sound absorbing element having a planar central portion extending along a bottom portion of the motor cavity and at least one lateral wing portion hingedly attached to the central portion and extending along at least a portion of the motor cavity sides. These features of the sound absorbing element are the features that formed the basis for allowability of claim 8. Therefore, Applicant believe that claims 1 and 25 are allowable as claim 8. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The remaining rejected dependent claims all depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 or claim 25 and are, for the same reasons, non-obvious and allowable over Nelson and Herreman. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments, full support therefore being shown in the drawings and specification as filed. All claims remaining in the application are believed to now be in condition for allowance. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew James Retsema

Dated: March 24, 2008

By: /Mark A. Davis/
Mark A. Davis, Reg. No. 37,118
McGARRY BAIR PC
32 Market Avenue SW Suite 500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503